THE

WEEKLY INSPECTOR.

" Of those men who have overturned the Liberties of Republics, the greatest number
" have begun their career by paying an obsequious court to the People—commencing
" DEMAGOGUES, and ending TYRANTS." HAMILTON.

Vol. I.] NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1806. [No. 2.

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER.

(Attack on the President—Concluded.)

This message, with the documents accompanying it, was referred to a secret committee consisting of Mr. John Randolph, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. John Cotton Smith, Mr. Mumford, Mr. Williams of S. C. Mr. Bidwell, and Mr. Brown.

It may be proper to remark that this message, although deemed by the clerk (as he stated to the house) to be a part of the secret journal which had been ordered to be printed, was nevertheless omitted; nor has the omission ever been satisfactorily accounted for. The house by a subsequent vote refused to make it public.

The chairman of the committee to whom the confidential message was referred, immediately waited on the President, and informed him of the direction which had been given to it: expressing at the same time his willingness and readiness to co-operate, as far as his principles and judgment would permit, in such plans as the Executive might have devised for the occasion. He then learned, not without some surprise, that an appropriation of two millions was wanting to purchase Florida. He told the president without reserve, " that he would never agree to such a measure, because the money had not been asked for in the message; that he could not consent to shift upon his own shoulders, or those of the house, the proper responsibility of the Executive; but that even if the money had been explicitly demanded, he should have been averse to granting it; because, after the total failure of every attempt at negociation, such a step would disgrace us for ever; because France would never withhold her ill offices, when by their interposition she could extort money from us; because, if Great-Britain, with whom we had serious matters of controversy, did not consider our supplying her enemies with money* as a breach of our neutrality, it must inspire her with contempt for any attitude of resistance which we might assume towards her; that it was equally to the interest of Spain and of the U. States, to accommodate the matter by an exchange of territory;" (to this mode of settlement the President seemed much opposed)—" that the nations of Europe, like the Barbary powers, would hereafter refuse to look at the credentials of our ministers, without a previous *douceur*," and much more to the same purpose.

The committee met on the 7th of December, but came to no definitive resolution. One of its members (Mr. Bidwell, of Massachusetts) construed the message into a requisition of money, for purposes of foreign intercourse, and proposed a grant to that effect, but in this construction he was unsupported, and his proposition over-ruled. He himself, when the subject was agitated in the house, would not avow the same construction of the message which he had given to it in the select committee. On the 14th of December, the chairman of that committee was obliged to go to Baltimore, from whence he did not return until the 21st. During this interval, the dispatches from Mr. Munroe, of the 18th and 25th of October, were received by government. Previous to the chairman's departure, having occasion to call on the secretary of state, he was told by that officer, that France would not permit Spain to adjust her differences with us: that France wanted money, and that we must give it to her, or have a Spanish and French war. It was when he related this circumstance to the house that Mr. Randolph said, " his confidence in the secretary of state had never been very high, but that now it was gone forever." And on the same occasion Mr. Nicholson (who had voted for the appropriation) exclaimed, that he trusted in God the negociation would fail. Several other republican members seemed shocked at this disclosure, and expressed regret at the vote which they had given. On the morning of Saturday the 21st of December, the chairman of the select committee returned from Baltimore. The committee were immediately convened. As they were about to assemble, the chairman was called aside by the secretary of the treasury, with whom he re-

** It is believed that the Louisiana treaty was antedated to obviate this very difficulty. If money, why not warlike stores, or even fleets and armies?*

tired, and who put into his hands a paper headed "Provision for the purchase of Florida." As soon as he had cast his eyes on the title, the chairman declared that he would not vote a shilling. The secretary interrupted him, by observing, with his characteristic caution, that he did not mean to be understood as recommending the measure, but if the *committee* should deem it advisable, he had devised a plan for raising the necessary supplies, as he had been requested (or directed) in that case to do. The chairman expressed himself disgusted with the whole of this procedure, which he could not but consider as highly disingenuous. He said "that he was as sensible of the importance of Florida to the U. S. and as willing to acquire it honourably as any man, but he could never consent to proceed in this way; that the most scrupulous care had been taken to cover the reputation of the administration, whilst congress were expected to act as if they had no character to lose: that whilst the official language of the executive was consistent and dignified, whilst the President warned us of the "determination of Spain to advance upon our possessions until she should be repressed by an opposing force," and pronounced "that the protection of our citizens, as well as the spirit and honour of our country, rendered the interposition of that force necessary," declaring at the same time "his determination to pursue the course which the wisdom of congress should prescribe;" congress was privily required to take upon itself all the odium of shrinking from the national honour and national defence, and of delivering the public purse to the first cut-throat that demanded it. From the official communications—from the face of the record, it would appear that the executive had discharged his duty in recommending manly and vigorous measures, which he had been obliged to abandon, and compelled by congress to pursue an opposite course, when, in fact, congress itself had been acting all the while at executive instigation." The chairman further observed, "that he did not understand this double set of opinions and principles; the one ostensible, to go upon the journals and before the public; the other efficient, and the real motives to action; that he held true wisdom and cunning to be utterly incompatible in the conduct of great affairs: that he had strong objections to the measure in itself, but, in the shape in which it was presented, his repugnance to it was insuperable." And in a subsequent conversation with the President himself, in which these objections were recapitulated, he declared "that he too had a character to support, and principles to maintain, and avowed his determined opposition to the whole scheme."

The committee now assembled, and instructed their chairman to write to the Secretary of War for his opinion as to the force which it would be requisite to raise for the defence of the southern frontier; and requesting at the same time to be informed what number of troops were already stationed in that quarter. In his answer, the minister stated the force which the United States had on the Missisippi and its branches, ready to descend the river at a short notice, to be somewhat less than a thousand men: that he had intelligence that Spain was collecting an army on the frontiers of New Mexico, and transporting troops from the Havanna to Pensacola, and that the force requisite on our part, would depend upon that which would be opposed to us, which he estimated (vaguely) to be superior to our own.

About this period, the news of the seafight off Trafalgar reached America, the event of which alarming the Spanish ministry for the safety of their West-India colonies, forbade the weakening of the important post of the Havanna, and suspended the hostile movements on the part of Spain against the United States. And to this circumstance we have been probably indebted for the undisturbed possession of New-Orleans and its dependencies.

When the Secretary of War's letter was laid before the committee, Mr. Bidwell moved the same proposition which the secretary of the treasury had some days before put into the hands of the chairman, and which he (Mr. B.) afterwards introduced into the house, viz. a vote of two millions and a continuance of the duties, the proceeds of which constituted the Mediterranean fund. It was rejected, and the chairman directed to draft the report which has been printed with the secret journal, and published in all the newspapers. The committee saw, in the multiplied aggressions of Spain, ample cause of war, on the part of a government with which the welfare of its citizens was not paramount to every other consideration. But conceiving that the true interests of the American people (which alone it behoved them to consult) required peace, they forbore to recommend offensive measures. They believed it to be our policy to reap the neutral harvest, and seize the favourable occasion of extinguishing the public debt, at once the price of our liberties and the badge of our ancient servitude. So long as this debt remains unpaid, we can scarcely be considered as a truly independent people. The sense of the committee was neither to make war, nor purchase peace, but to provide for the defence of our actual territory, which the highest authority had announced to have been violated, and to be menaced with fresh invasion. On this point they conceived there could be but one sentiment, whatever difference of opinion might exist as to the wisdom of pledging the nation to protect its flag in remote seas, or its ability to afford such protection. A poor

attempt has been made to reproach the committee with a want of reliance on the militia, and a preference for the standing army. When it is considered, that all the protection then and since extended to the country in question, consists of regular troops, and that the nearest states from which the militia could be marched for its defence, are separated from it by many hundred miles of intervening Indian country, (not to mention that these states themselves are amongst the weakest in the union) the incompetency of the militia to the service in question, and the futility of the objection must become manifest to all. Besides, the President had no occasion to apply to congress for power to call out the militia to repel invasion, that force being, under such circumstances, already at his disposal; and it is worthy of remark, that the far greater number of these would-be partisans of the militia refused to adopt the measure recommended by the executive, (or indeed any other) for giving efficient operation to that great constitutional defence.

The report of the committee, although in strict unison with the official recommendation of the executive, was rejected by 72 to 58 votes; and the proposition to appropriate ——— dollars, for the purpose of defraying any extraordinary expenses of foreign intercourse, which had been previously laid on the table by a member of that committee, before their report was made to the house, was immediately taken up. The avowed object of this measure was to enable the President to open a negociation for the purchase of Florida. A motion was then made by Mr. J. Randolph, to confine the appropriation to that object, and agreed to, yeas 78, nays 58. Another motion was made by the same gentleman, to render the debt which was proposed to be incurred, redeemable at the pleasure of the U. States.—This was carried without a division. But afterwards, when the bill was brought in, the house rescinded its vote for a specific appropriation, and the money was left applicable, at the discretion of the executive, to any extraordinary purpose of foreign intercourse whatsoever. Mr. J. Randolph also moved to limit the amount which the government might stipulate to pay for the territory in question; upon the ground, that if congress were disposed to acquire Florida by purchase, they should fix the extent to which they were willing to go, and thereby furnish our ministers with a safeguard against the rapacity of France; that there was no probability of our obtaining the country for less, but every reason to believe, that, without such a precaution on our part, she would extort more. This motion was overruled. When the bill came under discussion, various objections were urged against it by the same gentleman: among others, that it was in direct opposition to the views of the executive, as expressed in the President's official communication, (it was on this occasion that general Varnum declared the measure to be consonant to the *secret wishes* of the executive,) that it was a prostration of the national honour at the feet of our adversary; that a concession so humiliating would paralize our efforts against Great-Britain, in case the negociation then and now pending between that government and ours should prove abortive: that a partial appropriation towards the purchase of Florida, without limiting the President to some specific amount, would give a previous sanction to any expense which he might incur for that object, and which congress would stand pledged to make good: that, if the executive, acting entirely upon its own responsibility, and exercising its acknowledged constitutional powers, should negociate for the purchase of Florida, the house of representatives would, in that case, be left free to ratify or annul the contract: but that the course which was proposed to be pursued (and which eventually was pursued) would reduce the discretion of the legislature to a mere shadow: that at its ensuing session, congress would find itself, in relation to this subject, a deliberate body but in name; that it could not, without a manifest dereliction of its own principles, and perhaps without a violation of public faith, refuse to sanction any treaty entered into by the executive under the auspices of the legislature, and with powers so unlimited: that, however great his confidence in the chief magistrate, he would never consent to give a President so dangerous a proof of it: that his duties as a member of that house, as the independent representative of an independent people, were paramount to every other consideration: and that he would never preclude himself, by any previous sanction, from the unbiassed exercise of his judgment on measures which thereafter were to come before him: that the house had no official recommendation from the executive for the step which they proposed to take; on the contrary, it was in direct opposition to its sentiments, as expressed in the confidential message; that the responsibility would be exclusively their own; that, if the President deemed it advisable to purchase foreign territory, he was free to enter into stipulations for that purpose, whilst congress would remain equally free to sanction or disapprove such stipulations; or that, if he thought proper to ask for an appropriation for that object, the responsibility of the measure would rest upon him: but when the legislature undertook "to prescribe the course which he should pursue, and which he had pledged himself to pursue," the case was entirely changed: that that house could have no channel through which it could be made acquainted with the opinions of the executive, but such as was

official, responsible, and known to the constitution; and that it was a prostitution of its high and solemn functions to act upon an unconstitutional suggestion of the private wishes of the executive, irresponsibly announced by an irresponsible individual, and in direct hostility to his avowed opinions.

To every objection, the "Louisiana precedent," as it was called, formed the only answer, although in the latter stages of the discussion, no reply was attempted. The doors were closed, and the minority, whose motives were impeached, and whose persons were almost denounced, were voted down without debate. In reply to the case of Louisiana, it was said, that it was no precedent at all; that every argument drawn from that source was utterly inconclusive in the present instance; that no two cases could be more dissimilar; that, except the parties being the same, there was no point of resemblance; that, when Spain withheld from us the right of deposit at New-Orleans, congress had acted on its own instigation alone; they had not been apprized by the executive of any hostile movement on the part of Spain: the territory of the U. S. had not been insulted, nor the persons of our citizens, within our own jurisdiction, violated. It had not been officially announced to congress, that "their protection, as well as the spirit and honour of our country, rendered the interposition of the national force indispensable;" the chief magistrate of the union had not officially declared, that the act of aggression in question was committed by persons acting by the orders and under the sanction of the court of Madrid: on the contrary, the house of representatives had expressed, by a formal resolution, their belief, that the wrong in question had proceeded from the unauthorized misconduct of certain Spanish officers, and declared their determination, in case it should be sanctioned by their government, to redress the injuries, and vindicate the rights of our citizens. On that occasion congress avowed, that they would resort, in the first instance, to an amicable explanation with the Spanish court; on this, the fair experiment of negociation had been tried, and "after five months of fruitless endeavour, on our part, to bring them to some definite and satisfactory result," had entirely failed. It could not escape the recollection of the house, to how great an excitement the denial of a conventional right had, at that day, roused the minds of our citizens. And it must be remembered, that the acquisition of Louisiana, which put a stop to these aggressions of Spain, (for which no satisfaction had as yet been rendered) was made, not from the party by whom those offences had been offered, but from one in no wise connected with them. And, admitting at this juncture the propriety of our making overtures for the purchase of a country, the possession of which, it was conceded on all hands, was highly desirable to us; not, what measures had we taken, or did we propose to take, for the refusal, on the part of Spain, to "ratify her convention with us, signed by her own minister under the eye of his sovereign, pledging her to make compensation for spoliations committed upon our commerce during a preceding war:——to indemnify our citizens for the renewal of the same practices, already of great amount during the present war; for the obstruction of the navigation of the Mobile; for refusing to come to any fair and amicable adjustment of the boundaries of Louisiana, and for a daring violation by persons acting under the authority of Spain, and no doubt apprized of her sentiments and views, of our undisputed limits, which she had solemnly recognized by treaty." NONE! The denial of the stipulated compensation for the spoliations of a former war; the reiteration of the same practices during the present; the obstruction of the Mobile; the peremptory refusal to adjust the boundaries of Louisiana; the insults committed on our territory, and the violation of the property and persons of our citizens within our acknowledged limits; all seemed forgotten, in the zeal to purchase Florida, or thrown with the national purse into the scale.

The bill, nevertheless, passed by a great majority. A motion was then made to transmit, by a committee, the following message to the senate:

"By the house of representatives, January 16th, 1806.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We transmit you a bill which has passed this house, entitled "an act making provision for defraying any extraordinary expenses attending the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations," and in which we require your concurrence. This bill has been passed by us, to enable the President of the United States to commence, with more effect, a negociation for the purchase of the Spanish territories lying on the Atlantic ocean, and gulf of Mexico, and eastward of the river Missisippi. The nature and importance of the measure contemplated, have induced us to act upon the subject with closed doors. You will, of consequence, consider this communication as confidential." Mr. J. Randolph then moved to strike out the words "river Missisippi," and to insert "bay of Perdido," upon this ground—that the country between the Missisippi and the Perdido was in dispute between the United States and Spain, being a part of Louisiana, "such as it was as possessed by France," and conveyed by the treaty of Paris of the 30th of April, 1802, to the U. States. To the territory in question (embracing both banks of the Mobile, and out of which all our differences with Spain, on the subject of

boundary on this side of the Missisippi, had grown,) the executive had advanced, what they deemed, an undoubted claim. Upon this claim congress had already legislated, having passed a law, erecting the shores and waters of the river Mobile into a collection district, and it was deemed that the authorizing the President to purchase that portion of the country, would not only be a compromitment of the national honour, but might fairly be considered as a surrender on our part of all pretension to the disputed territory. This motion, however, was negatived—Yeas 59—Nays 68. It is perhaps worthy of remembrance, that, on this, as on most of the other questions arising out of this subject, many of the warmest advocates of the measures eventually pursued, were in the minority. (See the secret journal, since published, page 38.) But, to the message itself, as well as to the general course of proceeding, (as it is presumed) unanswerable objection was taken:—That the direction which the house of representatives had chosen to pursue, was to be prescribed, not to the senate, but to the President; and that it would be impossible for the executive, even with the ingenuity of Oedipus himself, to divine, from a message to the senate, what was the real intention of the representatives of the people; that this message was not to be announced to him, but to the other branch of the legislature, and that, even if it were, his duty was to execute the laws which should be enacted, and which could not be enlarged, restrained, or modified, in any degree whatsoever, by any message from one house of congress to the other: and the appropriation being for any indefinite purpose of extraordinary foreign intercourse, and not made in consequence of any intimation or recommendation from the President, he must be presumed to be totally in the dark, "as to the secret wishes" of the senate and house of representatives, and to be incapable of inferring the intentions of the legislature from any thing but the context of the law itself: much less should he be deemed responsible for the execution of plans, of which, by the general maxims of legislation, as well as by the known principles of the constitution, he must be supposed to be altogether ignorant. As I have said, however, this, with every other difficulty that could not be solved, was overruled: and on Thursday, the 16th of January, the engrossed bill, with the message above recited, was transmitted to the senate. On the day following, when the bill was no longer in the possession of the house, or under its control, the dispatches from our minister at London, of the 18th and 25th of October, 1805, which had been four weeks lying in the office of the secretary, were laid before the house. Those dispatches, which had a most important bearing upon our Spanish relations, which had occupied the attention of the house of representatives for nearly three preceding weeks, during which their doors were closed, produced an instantaneous conviction on the minds of many, the best informed and most influential members of the house, who had hitherto voted with the majority, that the course which they had pursued was wrong. A feeble insinuation was indeed made by certain members of the house, presumed to be in the confidence of the secretary of state, that the dispatches had but recently arrived; and this inference was supported by this circumstance, that a single copy only (perhaps the original) was submitted to the two houses, to be interchanged between them; from whence it was concluded by many, that sufficient time had not elapsed, since their reception, to enable the clerks in the office of foreign affairs to make out duplicates of the papers. But this fact was immediately disproved by Mr. J. Randolph's calling at the secretary of state's office, where he learnt from Mr. Wagner, the chief clerk of that department, as well as from the secretary himself, that they had arrived the week before Christmas; that is, prior to the 21st of December.

The house of representatives having resolved to incur an expense for the purchase of Florida, the second member of Mr. Bidwell's resolution, to continue for years, the additional duty of two and a half per cent. ad. valorum, imposed by the "act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the U. S. against the Barbary powers," to make good the same, came under consideration. But this proposition was vehemently opposed by Mr. J. Randolph, who stated, that he deemed it an unconstitutional mode of voting supplies to raise taxes in conclave: that if the members of that house should once come to levy contributions on their constituents with close doors, whilst the votes which they should give, (to say nothing of the discussion) from the very nature of the secret journal, remained concealed from their constituents, there was an end of the public liberties. Congress might thus pass any laws, however unconstitutional and oppressive, whilst the people would remain ignorant of the part which their representatives respectively had taken, and be consequently unable to apply the proper corrective, and that, however reasons of state might render it expedient to proceed in this way against a foreign enemy, or to give a secret direction to military expeditions against the common foe, those reasons were totally inapplicable to the impositions of burthens upon the people, or to any curtailment of their rights, with which that enemy could have no concern, and from the knowledge of which he could derive no advantage. The proposition was at that time withdrawn, but, on the last day of the session, April 21, this tax was continued: the only ostensible motive is to

official, responsible, and known to the constitution; and that it was a prostitution of its high and solemn functions to act upon an unconstitutional suggestion of the private wishes of the executive, irresponsibly announced by an irresponsible individual, and in direct hostility to his avowed opinions.

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The house of representatives having resolved to incur an expense for the purchase of Florida, the second member of Mr. Bidwell's resolution, to continue for years, the additional duty of two and a half per cent. ad. valorum, imposed by the "act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the U. S. against the Barbary powers," to make good the same, came under consideration. But this proposition was vehemently opposed by Mr. J. Randolph, who stated, that he deemed it an unconstitutional mode of voting supplies to raise taxes in conclave: that if the members of that house should once come to levy contributions on their constituents with close doors, whilst the votes which they should give, (to say nothing of the discussion) from the very nature of the secret journal, remained concealed from their constituents, there was an end of the public liberties. Congress might thus pass any laws, however unconstitutional and oppressive, whilst the people would remain ignorant of the part which their representatives respectively had taken, and be consequently unable to apply the proper corrective, and that, however reasons of state might render it expedient to proceed in this way against a foreign enemy, or to give a secret direction to military expeditions against the common foe, those reasons were totally inapplicable to the impositions of burthens upon the people, or to any curtailment of their rights, with which that enemy could have no concern, and from the knowledge of which he could derive no advantage. The proposition was at that time withdrawn, but, on the last day of the session, April 21, this tax was continued: the only ostensible motive is to

be found in a message from the executive of the 14th of the same month, intimating the existence of an unfriendly disposition on the part of Tunis towards the United States.

In a future number some remarks will be offered on the proceedings of congress respecting our relations with Great Britain: a subject, which, if possible, has been more misrepresented and less understood than that of the present communication.

DECIUS.

EDITORIAL.

POLITICAL.

JOHN BULL LAUGHING AT US!

We have frequently attempted to persuade those of our political opponents, who are honest, that without a military marine our commerce will eventually be cut off; our country a laughing stock and bye-word of reproach among all nations; that we ought to have been able to *command* respect, at least in our own waters; and that if the measures which originated in the better days of the Federal administration had been pursued with perseverance, we should have been at least able to *trim the balance of power on the ocean*, and thus have been formidable even to Great-Britain*.

But no, said the gentlemen who have dismantled our navy, and thus cut the sinews of our national strength, ships of war would be *expensive!* Very true—houses are expensive; apparel costs something; and we cannot even procure food without paying for it: and shall we, to avoid these expenses, seek shelter in caves and hollow trees—go naked, like South-Sea savages—and feed on buds and berries?

Besides, what would become of the money laid out in building a navy? Would it not increase the active industry of our citizens; give security to our property on the ocean; encourage our own manufactures, and thus add to the wealth of the nation, without the necessity of sending a single cent out of the country? If the expense should render imposts higher than they are at present, and even direct taxes necessary, the value of every species of property would rise in a fourfold proportion; public and individual prosperity would proceed hand in hand; and America be rapidly realizing those visions of glory, which have been so often the theme of the poet and the hope of the philanthropist.

But, in consequence of the feeble measures of our worse than water-gruel administration, John Bull (as we shall see by what follows,) has the impudence to burst into a horse-laugh at our expense; and, indeed, our conduct has been so ridiculous, that we should shake our own sides at our own folly, were we not checked by the reflection, that our *comical* proceedings may probably have a most *tragical* termination.

It is indeed a most mortifying reflection, that, with all the advantages which nature has so lavishly bestowed upon us, our principal towns should lie at the mercy of any power who can fit out half a dozen frigates for our annoyance. But this will ever be the case, till our countrymen are convinced that their *private interests* are intimately blended with the *public* good; till they refuse to employ bad men in public capacities, merely in consequence of their making great pretensions to patriotism; and perceive that a niggardly economy in public expenditures, may be more destructive than the most thoughtless extravagance.

But to return to what friend John Bull says of us and our virtuous and valorous President:—A late number of a famous political Journal, which has ever been considered as the mouth-piece of the cabinet of St. James', expresses the following contemptuous sentiments of the American people, and their government:

"In America, the *religious* and *moral* disposition of the *illustrious* President, citizen Jefferson, shines forth in all its native splendour and *purity*. It pervades the councils of the United States, in which it is difficult to say whether the spirit of discord or the spirit of folly predominates. In order to *bully* this country into a base surrender of her rights, these republican senators, with less patriotism, indeed, but

* See "Democracy Unveiled," Canto IV. passim.

with the same power to injure, as the little senate of *Utica*, have come to the *magnanimous* resolution of forbidding the importation of British manufactures. But do the sages suppose us to be so completely ignorant of the resources of this infant state, as not to know how very large a portion of its revenues arise from duties on such articles; and that the prohibition will, in point of fact, operate as a severe tax on their own countrymen? When they threaten us with *war*, and order their *whole naval force*, consisting of *two or three frigates*, and *half a dozen sloops and brigs*, to be equipped, it is impossible to preserve the gravity of our countenance, or to refrain from laughter."

"We have a pretty specimen, truly, of the vigilance and vigour of this republican government; when we see a body of troops, and vessels for transporting them, raised, fitted out, and sailing from its ports, under a foreign General, to attack the settlements of a power who has an ambassador at its *Court*, or whatever they please to call it!—When they are out of danger, indeed, and all the mischief is done, proclamations are issued against the pirates, and rewards are offered for the apprehension of their agents. But such tricks do not pass current in America, and Messrs. Jefferson and Co. may rest assured, that John Bull is not quite so bereft of his senses as to be a dupe to their paltry artifices."

Sure, John, you can't be such a clown,
As thus t'attack us while we're down;
'Twould be ungenerous to hurt
A foe that's prostrate in the dirt—
Then please to adjourn your ire a bit,
Till we rise high enough to hit,
And get our gun-boats in a train
To *hit you* nicely back again.
Till then, as pert as pert Jack-Daw,
Strut, crow, and laugh out ha! ha! ha!
Still we'll pronounce our famous President
"The greatest man on this earth resident;"
And gun-boat Number One, right soon,
"Shall blow your island to the moon!"

A gentleman has addressed to us a well written communication, with the signature of "A SUBSCRIBER." We hope he will not be displeased at our making the following extracts, although he assures us he did not write with a design to have his letter published.

"The citizens of the United States, and especially of this state, have too long oscillated between the Clintonian, the Livingston, and other vile aristocratic cabals. They have long and repeatedly been warned of their dangerous situation; but somehow it has unfortunately happened, they have not paid that attention to the subject that it requires. Immersed in business, and perplexed with the cares of family affairs, THE BULK OF MANKIND BUT SELDOM INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES THAT PRODUCE REMARKABLE CHANGES IN SOCIETY. Consequently, the elaborate production of the statesman is disregarded. Not so of the satyrist. His fare is suited to the palate of every capacity. His works are sought after with avidity, and devoured with eagerness. From his well drawn picture the public are roused from their lethargic state, and they behold with horror and indignation the views of their leaders. WICKED MEN, WHEN IN POWER, FEAR NOTHING BUT SATIRE. They laugh to scorn the remonstrance—they disregard the *proofs* of their villainy, BECAUSE THEY HAVE IT IN THEIR POWER TO SECURE THEMSELVES FROM JUSTICE. But when their infallibility is called in question by the inscrutable shafts of the satyrist; when they see themselves portrayed in their *just colours*, they shrink to nothing. It is then they fear to be judged even by the lowest orders of society:—Such is the part expected of you to perform—to "hoot the wretches from society"—to rouse the public mind, and accustom it to judge of men not by their words, but by actions."

We assure our correspondent that his advice is not lost on us; but we must, (as we think Burke somewhere expresses it) "heave the lead every inch of the way." We are twisting our satirical thong, and shall tickle, scourge, or scarify, as their demerits may demand, certain political culprits.

We covet a continuation of the correspondence of DRUSUS. His style is elegant, his views elevated, and his sentiments patriotic. Our next paper shall present to the public the fruits of his lucubrations.

—

Lines from a "Prisoner for life," are under consideration.

NEWS.

We have not much to gratify our readers' curiosity. We are not like

"Typographs, who take vast pains
"To hunt for plagues and hurricanes."

The newspapers prattle about peace in Europe; but silence on that subject would be commendable, till they can procure at least some plausible foundation for their conjectures. Jerome Bonaparte's famous victory over the English West-India fleet turns out, as we had anticipated, a sheer gasconade. The story was founded on a trifling affair with a Bermuda sloop of war.—Mr. Fox is sinking under a complication of disorders, which will probably preclude his ever again appearing in public.—The intelligence respecting the execution of the adventurers in the Miranda expedition, is unfortunately but too well confirmed.—The able and indefatigable Editor of the Evening Post, has pelted the New-York democratic corporation to some purpose. He proves that these sham-patriots grant away public property to their creatures, without any valuable consideration.

A Mr. Smith, a thorough going democrat, on a public festival, at Litchfield, took the liberty to order the reverend Mr. Champion, an aged clergyman, out of his own meeting house; and attempted to justify his conduct, by publishing falsehoods in his own defence. The venerable clergyman, however, by a plain tale, has put him down, and exhibits the insolence of the young prig in such a point of view, as ought to make him ashamed to show his face among gentlemen.

FOR THE WEEKLY INSPECTOR.

THE FOP.

A Song, by DR. CAUSTICK.

Lord, only look! there goes a fop!
As nice a thing as e'er did hop,
  And dangle round a lady!
A dainty dapper bit of man,
As fine as spangles on a fan,
  Or pinks upon a May-day.

See how it flaunts about, and flares,
And how it ogles, winks, and stares,
  With painted cheeks so rosy!
All essenc'd up with burgamot,
Powder'd, pomatum'd, and what not,
  O, what a pretty posy!

See round, and round, and round it skips,
To twenty lovely ladyships,
  And chatters like a pie, Sir;
It talks as much as though the brains
Its little *squashy* head contains,
  Would fill Musquito's eye, Sir.

Now see it balance up to Sue,
And now it tramps away to Prue,
  And now sets out to stalk a
Minuet—the fiddle squeals;
Grand as a turkey cock it feels,
  With Miss Keturah Gawkey!

And now with *deary*, down it squats,
And chats and grins, and grins and chats,
  Like some baboon's relation;
And, bless us, look, what loving works!
One simpers, and the other smirks,
  All flummery and flirtation!

"But," quoth Tom Tawdry, "mark
  "how well
"Sir Fopling suits each dashing belle—
  "Your railing I'm afraid is
"The effect of dissappointed spleen
"Because the beau is foremost seen
  "In favour of the ladies."

He please the ladies! very good;
Why then I would'nt if I could,
  So notable my spunk is;
I'd let them sooner seek gallants
From Afric's coast, or that of France,
  Brisk Sans Callottes—or monkies.

From the United States Gazette.

Some wicked people in the nation,
Find fault with our administration;
But if the whole truth were unfurl'd,
They're not the worst men in the world:
They lack but two things, I suspect,
Viz. *honesty* and *intellect.*

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